

A<sup>2</sup> was collected by vacuum filtration and washed with H<sub>2</sub>O (1.5 L) to afford the product (3) as a pale yellow solid (42 g, 0.144 mol).

A<sup>3</sup> (Amended, page 14, lines 4-5) H<sub>5</sub>IO<sub>6</sub> (1.14 g, 5 mmol) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred vigorously at room temperature for 1 hour

**In the claims:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

A<sup>4</sup> 4. (Amended) The process of claim 1 wherein said iodide is a quarternary ammonium iodide or inorganic iodide and said inert medium is an inert organic solvent.

A<sup>5</sup> 6. (Amended) The process of claim 4 wherein said inert organic solvent is selected from the group consisting of:

- a) an amide;
- b) an acyclic ether;
- c) a cyclic ether;
- d) an alkyl alkanoate wherein the alkyl group has 1 to 4 carbon atoms and the alkanoate group has 2 to 4 carbon atoms;
- e) a halogenated hydrocarbon;
- f) toluene; and
- g) mixtures thereof.

7. (Amended) The process of claim 6 wherein the organic solvent is selected from the group consisting of:

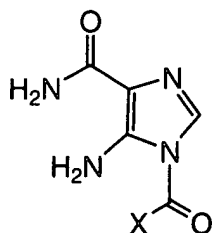
- a) DMF;
- b) t-butyl-methyl ether;
- c) THF;
- d) acetonitrile;
- e) methylene chloride; and
- f) mixtures of the above solvents.

Q6  
9. (Amended) The process of claim 6 wherein:

- a) the organic solvent is a 50/50 mixture of THF/CH<sub>3</sub>CN;
- b) the oxidation/cyclization agent is H<sub>5</sub>IO<sub>6</sub>;
- c) the iodide is Bu<sub>4</sub>NI and
- d) the reaction takes place at a temperature of about 0°C to about

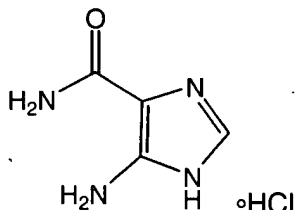
(+)60°C.

10. (Amended) A process for preparing a compound of the formula III:



III

which comprises reacting a compound of the formula 4:



4

with a compound of the formula X-CO-Y in the presence of an acid binding agent, wherein each of X and Y is the same or different leaving group, to yield a compound of the formula III.

Q7  
15. (Amended) The process of claim 13 wherein the organic solvent is selected from the group consisting of

- a) an amide;
- b) an acyclic ether;
- c) a cyclic ether;

Q7  
d) an alkyl alkanoate wherein the alkyl group has 1 to 4 carbon atoms and the alkanoate group has 2 to 4 carbon atoms;

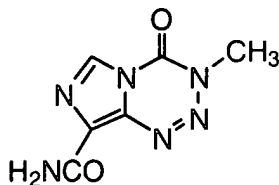
e) a halogenated hydrocarbon, and

f) mixtures thereof.

Q8  
21. (Amended) The process of claim 17 wherein said compound of formula II is a 1-alkyl derivative of 5-amino-4-(aminocarbonyl)-1H-imidazole-1-carboxylic acid hydrazide wherein the alkyl group contains 1 to 6 carbon atoms.

22. (Amended) The process of claim 21 wherein said compound of formula II is 5-amino-4-(aminocarbonyl)-1H-imidazole-1-carboxylic acid 1-methylhydrazide.

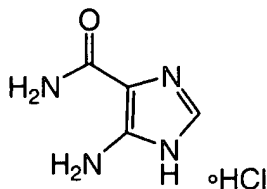
Q9  
24. (Amended) A process for preparing temozolomide (1):



(1)

comprising:

a) reacting compound 4:



(4)

with 4-nitrophenyl chloroformate in the presence of triethylamine in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, under nitrogen atmosphere at about 25°C to obtain compound (3):